

Members

Sen. Brent Steele, Chairperson
Sen. Dennis Kruse
Sen. Gary Dillon
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Cleo Duncan, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Thomas Saunders
Rep. Eric Turner
Rep. John Aguilera
Rep. Terri Austin
Rep. Charlie Brown



INTERIM COMMITTEE ON MOTOR VEHICLE ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 12, 2005
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Senate Chamber
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Brent Steele, Chairperson; Sen. Gary Dillon; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Thomas Saunders; Rep. Eric Turner; Rep. John Aguilera; Rep. Terri Austin; Rep. Charlie Brown.

Members Absent: Sen. Dennis Kruse; Rep. Cleo Duncan, Vice-Chairperson.

Senator Steele, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

The Chair summarized the Committee's work and briefly discussed the concept of the separation of powers. The Chair then called for comments from Committee members.

The Committee next engaged in a discussion on the confirmation of agency heads. This idea was brought to the Committee by Senator Rogers. She told the Committee that only Nevada and Indiana do not have some type of confirmation process for executive branch appointments.

Senator Rogers distributed Exhibit 1, addressing the confirmation process in surrounding states. Representative Brown inquired about including the House in the confirmation process. Representative Turner asked if this concept had been entertained in a Democrat administration. Senator Rogers replied that she was not aware of it. Commenting further,

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Representative Turner wondered how this would work with Republican control of the Senate and a Democrat administration. He also questioned how this concept would work, given that Indiana has a part-time legislature if there were intervening vacancies and at the beginning of a new administration.

Senator Craycraft commented that potential nominees could be appointed during the interim period of the General Assembly. Senator Dillon briefly discussed this issue. Senator Steele commented that it would lengthen legislative sessions and, therefore, cost more money. Representative Brown commented that in similar states, this concept takes up Senate time, which is a good thing.

Preliminary Draft (PD) 3087 (Exhibit 2) was presented for consideration by the Committee. PD 3087 would require all license branches to be open on election day. Current law requires only full-service license branches to be open on election day. Representative Austin inquired about a processing fee surcharge for auto dealers who would process registrations. She commented that she did not understand that issue. Representatives from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) told the Committee that they were studying the issue raised by Representative Austin. Representative Austin further commented that there is a need for legislative oversight. In response to a question from Representative Brown, BMV representatives told the Committee that there were five partial-service branches in the state. Senator Dillon suggested that PD 3087 be amended to say that all license branches that provide state identification cards must remain open on election day. Senator Dillon's verbal amendment was adopted by the Committee.

Senator Steele addressed the next agenda topic, the BMV's decision to stop mailing out notices of driver's license renewals. He told the Committee that this topic was brought to him by Representative Matt Pierce. There was no Committee discussion.

PD 3006 (Exhibit 3) was presented to the Committee by Representative Saunders. In his discussion, Representative Saunders told the Committee that he did not want to pit communities against one another. PD 3006 provides that a notice of a public hearing relating to the closure of a license branch must be published in the county in which the hearing is to be held. Representative Brown commented that language is needed regarding the outcome of the hearing. Senator Rogers commented that we need to look at the entire public forum process.

PD 3003 (Exhibit 4), presented by Representative Koch at the Committee's first meeting, was presented today by Senator Steele in Representative Koch's absence. PD 3003 requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commission (BMVC) to operate at least one license branch in the county seat of each county. Senator Dillon commented that a population center has no relation to the county seat, where people live, and how far they must travel. In response to a question about how many counties would be affected by this provision, Mike Barnhart of the BMV, told the Committee that six counties would be affected. Senator Craycraft commented about the possibility of the incorporation of the county seat and population center in a central location. PD 3003 was amended, by a unanimous vote, to include the Committee suggestions.

Senator Steele asked the Committee about the disposition of the three preliminary drafts brought before them today. PD 3006 was moved and seconded, and recommended for introduction in the next General Assembly by a unanimous vote.

PD 3003 was next for consideration. No motion was made and PD 3003 was withdrawn.

PD 3087, as amended, was moved, seconded, and recommended for introduction in the next General Assembly by a unanimous vote.

Representative Brown inquired about the status of the Gary license branch. BMV representatives told Representative Brown that the BMV would communicate with him about the status of the Gary branch. Senator Steele commented that there should be better communication with all legislators.

The Committee's Final Report was discussed. The report was adopted unanimously with inclusion of today's activities and the consideration of the preliminary drafts.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.